Fast Track Courts in Karnataka

1464. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fast Track Courts sanctioned for Karnataka;

(b) how many Fast Track Courts, out of them, have so far been set up;

(c) the total amount sanctioned for these courts so far; and

(d) the number of pending cases proposed to be cleared by these Fast Track Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Eleventh Finance Commission has sanctioned 93 Fast Track Courts for the state of Karnataka.

(b) As per available information, so far 13 Fast Track Courts have been set up.

(c) An amount of Rs. 1086.74 lakhs has been released by the Ministry of Finance to the State of Karnataka.

(d) So far 527 cases have been transferred to the Fast Track Courts. More cases will be transferred and disposed of by these courts as and when further courts are established by the State.

Election Dates for Assembly Elections

1465. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the election to State Assemblies of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal will be held simultaneously;

(b)if so, whether election dates have been finalized by Government;

(c)whether photo identification would be mandatory for voters in all these States;

(d)whether Government are aware that Punjab's average of issuing voters cards is lower than the national average; and

(e)if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has informed that it has decided to hold the general elections to the Legislative Assembilies of the States of

Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal simultaneously, the dates/schedule of which will be decided by the Commission in due course.

(c) to (e) According to the Election Commission, it plans to make the identification of electors at polling booths compulsory during these elections. In this regard, it has informed that the coverage of Electors' Photo Identity Cards in Punjab is now 74.4% which is higher than the all India average of 63.5%

Delay in Court proceedings

1466. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the death of the widow of L.N. Mishra after awaiting justice for over 26 long years in the case of his assassination in 1975 when he was the then Union Minister for Railways because of the unending delays in the court proceedings; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government with regard to the infinite justice?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Private Participation in Development of Ports in Karnataka

1467. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has requested to allow private participation in the development of minor / major ports in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of private investment and Government participation; and

(c) if not, whether Government would extend financial assistance to develop Karnataka ports as commercially viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) No such request has come from Government of Karnataka. While the major ports are within the jurisdiction of the Central Govt., ports other than major ports (minor ports) are within the administrative control of the State Government concerned. Development of minor ports through private sector participation is within the purview of respective State Government.